

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 06443 151141Z

42

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 SNM-02 EB-11 COME-00 AGR-20

L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SP-03 SY-04 TRSE-00

DRC-01 /111 W

----- 025660

R 151055Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1467

DEA HQS WASHDC

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 6443

ANKARA PASS DEA/BRIGGS

DEA FOR EN, ED, EOI, IG, AND IGI

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, IN

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS: OPIUM AVAILABILITY IN 1974 AND 1975

1. THE CHARGE MET WITH JASJIT SINGH ADDITIONAL SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF FINANCE MAY 13 TO DISCUSS CROP PROSPECTS AND EXPORT AVAILABILITY. (DURING RECENT VISIT TO NEW DELHI BY CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF MALLINCKRODT CHEMICAL WORKS, HAROLD THAYER, THAYER ASKED THE EMBASSY TO INTERCEDE WITH THE GOI TO RULE THAT A FAIR SHARE OF OPIUM EXPORTS BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE THREE US CUSTOMERS.) SINGH STATED THAT FINAL STATISTICS ON THE CURRENT CROP WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE UNTIL THE END OF THE MONTH. HOWEVER, THE GOI EXPECTED TOTAL 1974 PRODUCTION TO BE NO HIGHER THAN 1000 TONS . 850 TONS WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR EXPORT AFTER NEEDS OF GHAZIPUR AND NEEMUCH CODEINE PLANTS WERE COVERED. IF THE NEEMUCH CODEINE PLANT DID NOT COME ON STREAM, IN 1974, ADDITIONAL SUPPLIES MIGHT BE AVAILABLE FOR EXPORT LATER ON THIS YEAR.

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PAGE 02 NEW DE 06443 151141Z

2. SINGH STATED THAT THE GOI CERTAINLY INTENDED TO MAKE AVAILABLE A FAIR SHARE OF OPIUM EXPORTS FOR US COMPANIES. CURRENT PLANS WERE TO MAKE AVAILABLE THE SAME AMOUNT AS HAD BEEN SUPPLIED IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR. (THAYER HAD TOLD EMBASSY THE MALLINCKRODT EXPECTED A SMALL INCREASE, FOR 72 TO 80 TONS.)

3. SINGH PAINTED AN EXTREMELY BLEAK PICTURE OF THE OUTLOOK FOR 1975. SINGH STATED THAT THE GOI DID NOT PLAN TO INCREASE ACREAGE ANY FURTHER ON THE GROUNDS THAT THIS WAS INEFFECTIVE IN STIMULATING PRODUCTION. AS NEEMUCH MOVED TOWARDS TWO SHIFT PRODUCTION AN ADDITIONAL 50 TONS OF OPIUM WOULD HAVE TO BE DIVERTED TO THIS FACTORY RESULTING IN AN EXPORT AVAILABILITY OF ONLY 800 TONS IN 1975. HE NOTED THAT CODEINE MIGHT BECOME AVAILABLE FOR EXPORT.

4. COMMENT: WE REALIZE THAT THE ABOVE WILL BE BAD NEWS INDEED FOR THE US COMPANIES BUT WE CAN SEE NO BASIS FOR PROTEST SINCE THE US MARKET SHARE APPEARS TO BE MAINTAINED. CONTRARY TO THE INFORMATION GIVEN EMBASSY BY THAYER WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE EAST EUROPEANS HAVE BEEN CUT BACK IN SUPPLIES. OTHER COUNTRIES MAY BE RECEIVING INCREASES.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT THE SUBSTANCE OF THE ABOVE INFORMATION BE PASSED ON TO THE THREE US COMPANIES.
SCHNEIDER

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: DATA, AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, OPIUM, BUSINESS FIRMS
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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